

## **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS** The Second Commandment

Today, let's look at the second commandment. The second commandment sounds like a repeat of the first one but in this God introduces a new idea.

<sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. (Exodus 20:4-6)

Violation of the second commandment takes two general forms:

1. The worship of false gods by means of religious articles such as statues etc
2. The worship of the True God by means of religious articles such as statues etc

In one sense, in the second commandment God was telling mankind: "Don't try to tell Me what I am like, I will reveal to you what I am like" Here's what God is saying, "I don't want you to attempt to erect any kind of monument, any kind of statue, or anything with your hands that represents me."

I believe the second commandment was and (is still today) the most difficult one to grasp and the most controversial. Why is this so? You see everyone living around the children of Israel that had a God had some kind of representation. In other words they had some kind of idol, statue or monument representing or depicting that God. So it was when a person would go before that idol, statue or shrine, he or she would be said to have been in the presence of that God.

As I said earlier, even the children of Israel found this commandment too difficult to obey. If you read the book of Exodus, even when Moses was getting the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai what were the people of Israel doing in the valley below?

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." (Exodus 32:1)

What the people of Israel were saying was, look we need something to worship. We need an object to worship. Isaiah 43:7 tells us we were created to glorify God. And because of this every man or woman on this planet earth has a desire within them to worship. This desire is within me and you also.

However, what God was saying in the second commandment and is still saying: "Don't you dare create anything that represents me. I am un-representable. Whatever you create I am bigger than that, whatever you build I am more majestic than that, whatever size you make, I am more powerful than that.

Let me tell you why this is so very important. God was and is still saying: Don't make me manageable. Don't ever think of trying to carry me around for it is I who carry you and not you.

2Sa 6:3 So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

2Sa 6:6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.

7 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.

What was the reason God struck Uzzah? Many people don't understand this. Even David did not understand this. 2Sa 6:8 And David became angry because of the LORD'S outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day.

don't try to make me a location, don't try to limit me as someone you can be in the presence of and out of the presence of.

How would you react if someone misrepresented you? Lets face it there are consequences occur when someone is not represented correctly and the same with God.

For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

There are people who often venerate an object that represents God rather than fearing and obeying the commands of God.

<sup>2</sup> Then the Philistines put themselves in battle array against Israel. And when they joined battle, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men of the army in the field. <sup>3</sup> And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? (1 Samuel 4:2-3)

"Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines?" The elders of Israel never really bothered to find out the answer to that question. They did not want a permanent lasting solution. They were just interested in getting a quick fix to their problem. So here's what they did. They said:

"...Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies." <sup>4</sup> So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. <sup>5</sup> And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook. <sup>6</sup> Now when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, "What does the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" Then they understood that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp. (1 Samuel 4:3-6)

The "ark of the Lord" was an object that represented God. The people of Israel thought that the 'ark of the Lord' which represented God would bring them deliverance from their enemies. The fact was: they were putting their trust in an object rather than the Lord Himself. Also, their lives were not right with God. What was the end result?

1 Samuel 4:10-11 tells us the end result. <sup>10</sup> So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. <sup>11</sup> Also the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died."

Even today there are people like the children of Israel who hold on to objects which they think will bring them deliverance and prosperity. They think that by doing so they can use God like a lucky charm. This is nothing but idolatry.

One of the most important points that God told Moses to record about their conversation on Mount Horeb was that he saw no form or shape of God.

<sup>15</sup> "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, <sup>16</sup> "lest you act corruptly and make for

yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, <sup>17</sup> "the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, <sup>18</sup> "the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. (Deuteronomy 4:15-18)

#### Christ's Words

<sup>23</sup> "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)

How are we to worship God? We must worship God in spirit and truth.

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:4)

God cannot be comprehended by our physical senses. Any effort to make God comprehensible to our physical senses is idolatry.

<sup>29</sup> "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. <sup>30</sup> "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, (Acts 17:29-30)

Does Idolatry have an impact on future generations?

8 'You shall not make for yourself a carved image-any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 9 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, (Deuteronomy 5:8-9)

Children learn by example, and if their parents set the example that physical objects have excessive importance, then their children will pass down the same values.

Does it matter if we closely associate with idolaters?

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)